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APPLICATION NO.	F	ILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/529,043		04/03/2000	BERND EIKMANNS	21437	6651	
535	7590	03/17/2006		EXAMINER		
THE FIRM 5676 RIVER		RL F ROSS VENUE	STEADMAN, DAVID J			
	PO BOX 900				PAPER NUMBER	
RIVERDALE (BRONX), NY 10471-0900				1656		

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

.1		Applicati	on No.	Applicant(s)				
	Office Action Comments	09/529,0	13	EIKMANNS ET AL.				
	Office Action Summary	Examine		Art Unit				
	55	David J. S		1656				
Period fo	The MAILING DATE of this communication Reply	on appears on the	cover sheet with the c	orrespondence ad	ldress			
WHIC - External after - If NC - Failu Any	ORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR EXHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING INTO THE MAILING THE MAILIN	NG DATE OF TH CFR 1.136(a). In no ev tion. r period will apply and w y statute, cause the app	HIS COMMUNICATION ent, however, may a reply be tim	I. sely filed the mailing date of this coorsists U.S.C. § 133).				
Status								
1)⊠	Responsive to communication(s) filed on	n 02 December 2	005.					
	•	This action is n						
′=	·			secution as to the	e merits is			
٠,٣	3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.							
Dispositi	on of Claims							
4)⊠	Claim(s) 91-118 is/are pending in the app	plication.						
	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.							
	Claim(s) <u>91-108</u> is/are allowed.							
· · · · ·	6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>37-700</u> is/are rejected.							
·	Claim(s) is/are objected to.							
8)[Claim(s) are subject to restriction	and/or election r	equirement.					
Applicati	on Papers							
9)	The specification is objected to by the Ex	aminer.						
	The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)		objected to by the F	Examiner.				
,—	Applicant may not request that any objection		•					
	Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the	correction is requir	ed if the drawing(s) is obj	ected to. See 37 CI	FR 1.121(d).			
11)[The oath or declaration is objected to by t							
Priority L	ınder 35 U.S.C. § 119							
	Acknowledgment is made of a claim for fo ☑ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:	oreign priority un	der 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)	-(d) or (f).				
۵/۱	1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.							
	2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No							
	3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No							
	application from the International E	-			Clago			
* S	see the attached detailed Office action for	•	, ,,	d.				
Attachmen	t(s)							
	e of References Cited (PTO-892)		4) Interview Summary					
	e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-9- nation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/		Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal Pa	atent Application (PT)	O-152)			
	r No(s)/Mail Date	6) X Other: APPEN	DIX A Sequence alia					

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DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

[1] The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 1656.

- [2] Claims 91-118 are pending in the application.
- [3] Applicant's amendment to the claims, filed on 12/2/2005, is acknowledged. This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.
- [4] Applicant's arguments filed on 12/2/2005 have been fully considered and are deemed to be persuasive to overcome some of the rejections previously applied.

 Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn.
- [5] The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in the instant action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Objection

[6] Claim 110 is objected to as there is a period after "wherein said" in line 4 of part b), which prematurely ends the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

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[7] Claims 109-118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- [a] Claim 109 is indefinite in the recitation of "substantially identical to...SEQ ID NO:2" as it is unclear from the specification and the claims as to how identical to SEQ ID NO:2 a sequence must be to be included within the scope of the claim. In the interest of advancing prosecution, the examiner has interpreted "substantially identical" to mean a sequence that has greater than 50% identity to SEQ ID NO:2. It is suggested that applicant clarify the meaning of the term "substantially identical" as it relates to SEQ ID NO:2.
- **[b]** Claim 110 (claims 111-115 dependent therefrom) is confusing in the recitation of "aspartate and glutamate family strains.." as it is unclear as to the intended meaning of an aspartate and glutamate family strain. It is suggested that applicant clarify the meaning of the term.
- [c] Claims 110 (claims 111-115 dependent therefrom) and 116 (claims 117-118 dependent therefrom) recite the limitation "the starting microorganism." There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

[8] The new matter rejection of claim 109 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is maintained for the reasons of record and the reasons stated below. The rejection was fully explained in a prior Office action.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT: Applicant argues the term "substantially" is supported by the specification at p. 8, line 7. However, this is not found persuasive because the disclosure at p. 8, line 7 of the specification is related to a DNA sequence and not a polypeptide. It is suggested that applicant show support for the limitation of "substantially identical to…SEQ ID NO:2."

[9] The scope of enablement rejection of claim 109 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is maintained for the reasons of record and the reasons stated below. The rejection was fully explained in a prior Office action.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT: Applicants argue the rejection is obviated by amendment.

Applicant's argument is not found persuasive. At least for the reasons of record, which are based on a determination by weighing <u>all</u> of the factual considerations of <u>In re</u> <u>Wands</u>, it is the examiner's position that the specification does not enable the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

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[10] Claims 110-112 and 116-118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a written description rejection.

Claims 110 (claims 111-112 dependent therefrom) and 116 (claims 117-118 dependent therefrom) are drawn to methods using a genus of transformed microorganisms that have increased "copy numbers" of pyruvate carboxylase.

For claims drawn to a genus, MPEP § 2163 states the written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the claimed genus. MPEP § 2163 states that a representative number of species means that the species which are adequately described are representative of the entire genus. Thus, when there is substantial variation within the genus, one must describe a sufficient variety of species to reflect the variation within the genus. In this case, the specification discloses only a single representative species of the genus of recited transformed microorganisms, *i.e.*, a microorganism transformed with an expression

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vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:2. Other than this single disclosed species, the specification fails to disclose any additional species of the recited genus of transformed microorganisms, which encompasses widely variant species because the microorganism can have increased "copy numbers" of pyruvate carboxylase by *any* modification, including, *e.g.*, modification to endogenous promoter sequences, enhancer elements, and overexpressing transcription factors that regulate expression of pyruvate carboxylase.

Given the lack of description of a representative number of modified bacteria, the specification fails to sufficiently describe the claimed invention in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention.

[11] Claims 110-112 and 116-118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for practicing the claimed methods using a microorganism transformed with an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:2, does not reasonably provide enablement for the claimed methods using any microorganism as encompassed by the claims. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The claims are so broad as to encompass the use of any microorganism having any modification that results in increased "copy numbers" of pyruvate carboxylase

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including, e.g., modification to endogenous promoter sequences, enhancer elements. and overexpressing transcription factors that regulate expression of pyruvate carboxylase. The specification discloses only a single working example of such transformed microorganisms, i.e., a microorganism transformed with an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:2. Other than this single working example, the specification fails to provide any additional guidance for modifying a microorganism an expectation of achieving increased "copy numbers" of pyruvate carboxylase. The effects of modifying a microorganism with an expectation that the microorganism maintains the desired activity/utility is highly unpredictable. Because the specification fails to provide the necessary guidance, the experimentation required to make the full scope of recited transformed microorganisms is not routine. Thus, in view of the broad scope of the claims, the lack of guidance and working examples, the high level of unpredictability, and the amount of non-routine experimentation required, it is the examiner's position that undue experimentation is required for a skilled artisan to make the full scope of recited microorganisms to practice the claimed methods.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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[12] Claim 109 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by GenBank Accession Number P95127 (May 1, 1997). Claim 109 is drawn to an isolated pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide that has an amino acid sequence that is "substantially identical" to SEQ ID NO:2.

P95127 teaches a pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide that is 64.2% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 herein (see Appendix A). This anticipates claim 109 as written.

Conclusion

[13] Status of the claims:

Claims 91-118 are pending.

Claims 91-108 appear to be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 109-118 are rejected.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Steadman whose telephone number is 571-272-0942. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Thurs, 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleen Kerr can be reached on 571-272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David J. Steadman, Ph.D.

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Primary Examiner Art Unit 1656 Art Unit: 1656

APPENDIX A

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P95127_MYCTU
     P95127_MYCTU PRELIMINARY;
                                        PRT; 1127 AA.
ID
     P95127; Q7D6C5;
DT
     01-MAY-1997 (TrEMBLrel. 03, Created)
DT
     01-MAY-1997 (TrEMBLrel. 03, Last sequence update)
     13-SEP-2005 (TrEMBLrel. 31, Last annotation update)
DT
     PROBABLE PYRUVATE CARBOXYLASE PCA (PYRUVIC CARBOXYLASE) (EC 6.4.1.1)
DE
DE
     (Pyruvate carboxylase) (EC 6.4.1.1).
     Name=pca; OrderedLocusNames=MT3045, Rv2967c;
GN
     Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
OC
     Bacteria; Actinobacteria; Actinobacteridae; Actinomycetales;
     Corynebacterineae; Mycobacteriaceae; Mycobacterium;
OC
     Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex.
OX
     NCBI_TaxID=1773;
RN
     [1]
     NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE.
RP
RC
     STRAIN=H37Rv;
RX
     MEDLINE=98295987; PubMed=9634230; DOI=10.1038/31159;
RΑ
     Cole S.T., Brosch R., Parkhill J., Garnier T., Churcher C.M.,
     Harris D.E., Gordon S.V., Eiglmeier K., Gas S., Barry C.E. III,
RA
     Tekaia F., Badcock K., Basham D., Brown D., Chillingworth T.,
     Connor R., Davies R.M., Devlin K., Feltwell T., Gentles S., Hamlin N., Holroyd S., Hornsby T., Jagels K., Krogh A., McLean J., Moule S., Murphy L.D., Oliver S., Osborne J., Quail M.A., Rajandream M.A.,
RΑ
RA
RA
RA
     Rogers J., Rutter S., Seeger K., Skelton S., Squares S., Squares R.,
RA
     Sulston J.E., Taylor K., Whitehead S., Barrell B.G.;
RT
     "Deciphering the biology of Mycobacterium tuberculosis from the
RT
     complete genome sequence.";
RL
     Nature 393:537-544(1998).
RN
     [2]
     NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE.
RP
RC
     STRAIN=CDC 1551 / Oshkosh;
ВX
     MEDLINE=22206494; PubMed=12218036;
     DOI=10.1128/JB.184.19.5479-5490.2002;
     Fleischmann R.D., Alland D., Eisen J.A., Carpenter L., White O.,
RA
     Peterson J.D., DeBoy R.T., Dodson R.J., Gwinn M.L., Haft D.H.,
     Hickey E.K., Kolonay J.F., Nelson W.C., Umayam L.A., Ermolaeva M.D., Salzberg S.L., Delcher A., Utterback T.R., Weidman J.F., Khouri H.M.,
RA
RA
RA
     Gill J., Mikula A., Bishai W., Jacobs W.R. Jr., Venter J.C.,
RA
     Fraser C.M.;
     "Whole-genome comparison of Mycobacterium tuberculosis clinical and
RТ
     laboratory strains.";
     J. Bacteriol. 184:5479-5490(2002).
DR
     EMBL; BX842581; CAB05410.1; -; Genomic_DNA.
     EMBL; AE000516; AAK47371.1; -; Genomic_DNA.
DR
     PIR; D70671; D70671.
DR
DR
     HSSP; P02905; 1A6X.
DR
     HSSP; P24182; 1BNC.
DR
     TIGR; MT3045; -.
     TubercuList; Rv2967c; -.
DR
     GO; GO:0005737; C:cytoplasm; IEA.
     GO; GO:0005524; F:ATP binding; IEA.
DR
     GO; GO:0009374; F:biotin binding; IEA.
DR
DR
     GO; GO:0016874; F:ligase activity; IEA.
     GO; GO:0004736; F:pyruvate carboxylase activity; IEA.
DR
     GO; GO:0006094; P:gluconeogenesis; IEA.
DR
     GO; GO:0008152; P:metabolism; IEA.
DR
     InterPro; IPR011761; ATP_GRASP.
     InterPro; IPR011764; BC.
InterPro; IPR001882; Biotin_BS.
DR
DR
     InterPro; IPR005482; Biotin carb C.
     InterPro; IPR000089; Biotin_lipoyl.
DR
DR
     InterPro; IPR005481; CPase_L_N.
    InterPro; IPR005479; Cphp synth L D2.
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DR
    InterPro; IPR003379; PYC_OADA.
DR
    InterPro; IPR005930; Pyruv_carbox.
DR
    InterPro; IPR000891; PYR_CT.
DR
    InterPro; IPR000634; S/T_dehydrtse_BS.
DR
    Pfam; PF02785; Biotin_carb_C; 1.
DR
    Pfam; PF00364; Biotin lipoyl; 1.
    Pfam; PF00289; CPSase_L_chain; 1.
DR
DR
    Pfam; PF02786; CPSase L D2; 1.
    Pfam; PF00682; HMGL-like; 1.
DR
    Pfam; PF02436; PYC_OADA; 1.
DR
    TIGRFAMs; TIGR01235; pyruv_carbox; 1.
    PROSITE; PS50975; ATP GRASP; 1.
DR
    PROSITE; PS50979; BC; 1.
DR
DR
    PROSITE; PS00188; BIOTIN; 1.
DR
    PROSITE; PS50968; BIOTINYL LIPOYL; 1.
    PROSITE; PS00867; CPSASE_2; UNKNOWN_1.
DR
    PROSITE; PS00165; DEHYDRATASE SER THR; UNKNOWN 1.
    PROSITE; PS50991; PYR_CT; 1.
DR
    Complete proteome; Ligase; Pyruvate.
           1127 AA; 120422 MW; 84B0A4CC1A23CD90 CRC64;
    SEOUENCE
 Query Match 64.2%; Score 3712.5; DB 2; Length 1127; Best Local Similarity 64.4%; Pred. No. 8.5e-193;
 Matches 730; Conservative 153; Mismatches 239; Indels
                                                  11; Gaps
                                                             6:
        12 FKKILVANRGEIAVRAFRAALETGAATVAIYPREDRGSFHRSFASEAVRIGTEGSPVKAY 71
Qy
           2 FSKVLVANRGEIAIRAFRAAYELGVGTVAVYPYEDRNSQHRLKADESYQIGDIGHPVHAY 61
Qу
        72 LDIDEIIGAAKKVKADAIYPGYGFLSENAQLARECAENGITFIGPTPEVLDLTGDKSRAV 131
           Db
        62 LSVDEIVATARRAGADAIYPGYGFLSENPDLAAACAAGISFVGPSAEVLELAGNKSRAI 121
Qy
        132 TAAKKAGLPVLAESTPSKNIDEIVKSAEGQTYPIFVKAVAGGGGRGMRFVASPDELRKLA 191
            Db
        122 AAAREAGLPVLMSSAPSASVDELLSVAAGMPFPLFVKAVAGGGGRGMRRVGDIAALPEAI 181
Qγ
        192 TEASREAEAAFGDGAVYVERAVINPQHIEVQILGDHTGEVVHLYERDCSLQRRHQKVVEI 251
            182 EAASREAESAFGDPTVYLEQAVINPRHIEVQILADNLGDVIHLYERDCSVQRRHQKVIEL 241
Db
        252 APAQHLDPELRDRICADAVKFCRSIGYQGAGTVEFLVDEKGNHVFIEMNPRIQVEHTVTE 311
Qу
           242 APAPHLDAELRYKMCVDAVAFARHIGYSCAGTVEFLLDERGEYVFIEMNPRVQVEHTVTE 301
Db
        312 EVTEVDLVKAQMRLAAGATLKELGLTQDKIKTHGAALQCRITTEDPNNGFRPDTGTITAY 371
Οv
           302 EITDVDLVASQLRIAAGETLEQLGLRQEDIAPHGAALQCRITTEDPANGFRPDTGRISAL 361
Db
        372 RSPGGAGVRLDGAAQLGGEITAHFDSMLVKMTCRGSDFETAVARAQRALAEFTVSGVATN 431
Qу
           Db
        362 RTAGGAGVRLDGSTNLGAEISPYFDSMLVKLTCRGRDLPTAVSRARRAIAEFRIRGVSTN 421
        432 IGFLRALLREEDFTSKRIATGFIADHPHLLQAPPADDEQGRILDYLADVTVNKPHGVRPK 491
Qу
       Db
        492 DVAAPIDKLPNIKDLPL----PRGSRDRLKQLGPAAFARDLREQDALAVTDTTFRDAHQS 547
Qу
            482 TI-YPDDKLP---DLDLRAAPPAGSKORLVKLGPEGFARWLRESAAVGVTDTTFRDAHOS 537
Db
        548 LLATRVRSFALKPAAEAVAKLTPELLSVEAWGGATYDVAMRFLFEDPWDRLDELREAMPN 607
Qy
           538 LLATRYRTSGLSRVAPYLARTMPOLLSVECWGGATYDVALRFLKEDPWERLATLRAAMPN 597
        608 VNIQMLLRGRNTVGYTPYPDSVCRAFVKEAASSGVDIFRIFDALNDVSQMRPAIDAVLET 667
Οv
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מע	598	1CLQMLLKGKNIVGIIPIPEIVISAFVQEAIAIGIDIFKIFDALMNIESMKPAIDAVKEI	05/
Qy	668	NTAVAEVAMAYSGDLSDPNEKLYTLDYYLKMAEEIVKSGAHILAIKDMAGLLRPAAVTKL	727
Db	658	GSAIAEVAMCYTGDLTDPGEQLYTLDYYLKLAEQIVDAGAHVLAIKDMAGLLRPPAAQRL	717
Qy	728	VTALRREFDLPVHVHTHDTAGGQLATYFAAAQAGADAVDGASAPLSGTTSQPSLSAIVAA	787
Db	718	VSALRSRFDLPVHLHTHDTPGGQLASYVAAWHAGADAVDGAAAPLAGTTSQPALSSIVAA	777
Qy	788	FAHTRRDTGLSLEAVSDLEPYWEAVRGLYLPFESGTPGPTGRVYRHEIPGGQLSNLRAQA	847
Db	778	AAHTEYDTGLSLSAVCALEPYWEALRKVYAPFESGLPGPTGRVYHHEIPGGQLSNLRQQA	837
Qy	848	TALGLADRFELIEDNYAAVNEMLGRPTKVTPSSKVVGDLALHLVGAGVDPADFAADPQKY	907
Db	838	IALGLGDRFEEIEEAYAGADRVLGRLVKVTPTSKVVGDLALALVGAGVSADEFASDPARF	897
Qу	908	DIPDSVIAFLRGELGNPPGGWPEPLRTRALEGRSEGKAPLTEVPEEEQAHLDADDSKERR	967
Db	898	GIPESVLGFLRGELGDPPGGWPEPLRTAALAGRGAAR-PTAQLAADDEIALSSVGAK-RQ	955
Qу	968	NSLNRLLFPKPTEEFLEHRRRFGNTSALDDREFFYGLVEGRETLIRLPDVRTPLLVRLDA :	1027
Db	956	ATLNRLLFPSPTKEFNEHREAYGDTSQLSANQFFYGLRQGEEHRVKL-ERGVELLIGLEA	1014
Qу	1028	ISEPDDKGMRNVVANVNGQIRPMRVRDRSVESVTATAEKADSSNKGHVAAPFAGVVTVTV	1087
Db	1015	ISEPDERGMRTVMCILNGQLRPVLVRDRSIASAVPAAEKADRGNPGHIAAPFAGVVTVGV	1074
Qу	1088	AEGDEVKAGDAVAIIEAMKMEATITASVDGKIDRVVVPAATKVEGGDLIVVVS 1140 :	
Db	1075	CVGERVGAGQTIATIEAMKMEAPITAPVAGTVERVAVSDTAQVEGGDLLVVVS 1127	